



Ministry of Finance
Republic of Latvia



Ministry of Finance
Republic of Poland



REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA
MINISTRY OF FINANCE



MINISTRY OF FINANCE
of the Republic of Lithuania

Joint Statement

of Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland on Strengthening Economic and Financial Resilience of the EU Eastern Border

24 April 2026, Vilnius

For the Eastern border of Europe, Russia's brutal war of aggression against Ukraine has been more than a geopolitical shock – it has represented a long-term structural shift in the security, economic, social and fiscal environment. The region faces growing security threats, including military risks, hybrid attacks, cyber incidents, and pressure on critical infrastructure, requiring substantial and sustained defence and security investments. The aggressive neighbourhood has had a significant impact on the region across several dimensions: slower GDP growth, declining trade and transit flows, a decline in foreign direct investments, and impact on many sectors, including transport and tourism. The situation is also accompanied by social and long-term challenges – higher uncertainty, less attractive investment environment, and the need to strengthen social resilience against disinformation and psychological pressure. Against this backdrop, continued and sustained support for Ukraine is a key pillar of European security and a decisive factor in deterring further aggression.

This unprecedented situation has fundamentally reshaped the fiscal priorities of the EU Eastern border countries via accelerated and increased defence investments and revealed a simple truth: security and economic stability are inseparable. As a result, defence spending has increased substantially across the region. These efforts are supported through a combination of national fiscal measures, EU instruments and cooperation with international financial institutions.

Russia's war in Ukraine has clearly demonstrated that no single Member State can address these challenges alone. Coordinated European action is essential to ensure that frontline countries have the financial capacity to respond effectively and rapidly to emerging needs.

Looking forward, the recently published European Commission Communication on the EU's Eastern border regions provides an important basis for guiding funding priorities in the next Multiannual Financial Framework (2028–2034). It can help mobilise EU financial tools, better coordinate investment instruments, and justify additional support for resilience and security in frontline regions.

We welcome the proposed EastInvest platform, which will bring together European financial institutions and national promotional banks to better address investment needs. By improving access to financing and advisory support, it can help to boost economic growth, facilitate trade, and strengthen resilience and security across the Eastern border region. We are counting on a further constructive dialogue with the EC in search of financial resources that could support the platform.

Moreover, there is a clear need to ensure a horizontal special attention in EU budget to adequately support the needs of all Eastern border regions that are in need for help to mitigate the impact of the war and aggressive neighbourhood related economic and social consequences, and that are already making substantial national investments in defence.

Supporting the EU Eastern border is of existential importance for overall European security. This reality must be fully reflected not only in defence and internal security instruments, but across all relevant EU policies.

A stronger EU Eastern border means a stronger Europe.



Arvils Ašeradens

Minister of Finance
of Latvia

Andrzej Domanski

Minister of Finance and
Economy of Poland

Jürgen Ligi

Minister of Finance
of Estonia

Kristupas Vaitiekūnas

Minister of Finance
of the Republic
of Lithuania
